

BIRD DISTRIBUTIONAL AND BREEDING RECORDS FOR SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO, UTAH, AND ADJACENT REGIONS

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ABSTRACT.— New distributional records or the status for 33 species of birds that have occurred within Utah, adjacent southeastern portions of Idaho, or along the border of states surrounding Utah are reviewed. Four species, the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), represent new Utah breeding records established within the past decade, and they are commented upon. One other, the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila melanura*), may be breeding in Utah. The Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) may likewise be breeding in southeastern Idaho adjacent to Utah.

In 1972 the *Birds of Idaho* appeared (Burleigh 1972). It more or less represented the accumulation of a host of published and unpublished accounts plus observations from the more than 20 years of Burleigh's own field work in Idaho. Unfortunately, Burleigh resided in northern Idaho, where most of the data come from; and a quick review of the book will reveal the spotty nature of data from southern Idaho. For Utah, Behle and Perry (1975) and Hayward et al. (1976) brought together and updated most Utah records. Currently, Behle (pers. comm.) is in the final stages of bringing together his life's work on the birds of Utah. With all this recent material and the summation of Behle's work at hand, it seemed appropriate to record new data for adjacent regions in both states in cases where our new information clarified distribution or added new knowledge. Most of the Idaho data were gathered during an intensive study of raptors in and about the Raft River region of Cassia County, southeastern Idaho, 1976–1980 (Thurow et al. 1980). Some of these data are given to correct the misimpressions left by Burleigh. Much of the Utah material represents information accumulated since about 1974 by graduate students and faculty at Brigham Young University, but after the cutoff date for the *Birds of Utah* by Hayward et al. (1976). Where specimens were available their

catalogue numbers are given in parentheses for either the Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young University (BYU), or the Museum of Natural History, University of Utah (UU). Hereafter, reference to Burleigh, Hayward et al., or Behle and Perry will refer to the above references unless indicated by a date.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS:

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). The Cattle Egret was recorded in Utah as occasional by both Behle and Perry and Hayward et al. During the summer of 1980, an estimated 25 pairs were reported nesting along with the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) on a small Utah Lake island at the mouth of Provo Bay (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources personnel—UDWR; see also Kingery 1981c). On 28 July 1981 David Ng, a zoology graduate student, reported seeing 8–10 adults and 15 immature Cattle Egrets at this same heronry. Subsequently we visited the island on 11 August and found 29 nests, 14 with eggs, containing clutches of two to five eggs, as follows: 1/5, 2/4, 9/3, and 2/2. One of the 3 clutch nests had one egg pipping. At least 2 nests had eggs estimated to be no more than three–four days old and were laid in freshly built nests. Several clutches were laid in nests that had been previously used earlier in the season by

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Snowy Egrets, based on the fouling of the nests. At the remaining 15 nests young Cattle Egrets ranged from newly hatched to those moving about in trees and nearly capable of sustained flight. Three of the largest young were collected and these weighed 340 g (BYU 7617), 316 g (BYU 7618), and 340 g (UU 22,603). Palmer (1962) gives adult weights as 300–400 g. Their stomachs were full of orthopterans; one contained 13 heads. In 1982 some 50 nests were found. R. Isham (1975) studied the same island colony in 1973 and did not find this species breeding there with Snowy Egrets. Several of the Snowy Egret nests studied by Isham were marked with metal tags, and these same trees or nests were used by Cattle Egrets in 1981. Their establishment in Utah, Colorado, and Nevada has been summarized by Kingery (1980c); and, according to Rogers (1982b), they may now be breeding about 80 km N of the Utah localities at Lake Walcott, Power County, Idaho.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). A species listed as an uncommon breeder for southern Idaho by Burleigh and by Levy (1962), the Cooper's Hawk was found by us to be rather common in the canyons of the western slope of the Black Pine Mountains overlooking the Raft River Valley (see Thurow et al. 1980). We found them in all canyons that we were able to travel up. They nested both in aspen and conifer trees on south- and north-facing slopes. We suspect they were more common than we found them since we only explored canyons that had roads.

Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). Most of the data on this species comes from the 1960s, when it apparently moved into extreme southern Utah as a breeder about 1961–1962 (Hayward et al.). Only one specimen exists for Utah. Here we report a specimen that came to Brigham Young University (BYU 7619) after it had been shot by hunters. An adult female (wt. 866 g), it was reportedly found along the Virgin River N of Littlefield, Arizona, and 6–7 km S of the Utah border. The bird, with tail practically shot off, came to Stelling Ure, a Salt Lake City raptor rehabilitator, on 3 September 1980 and died within the day. It had been originally taken to Cedar City, where it apparently remained for two–three days before being taken to Salt Lake City.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). There were at least two individuals reported for Utah, one near Salt Lake City in 1970 and one in Provo in 1975. Behle and Perry considered it hypothetical, and Hayward et al. assign it an uncertain status. Recent records indicate it to be a rare to casual migrant. Steve Hoffman (pers. comm.), Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a hawk bander, recorded 17 individuals during fall migrations over a six-year period as follows (some of the records have been listed by Kingery 1980a):

1 ad	18 Sep 1977	Pilot Mt., Box Elder Co., Utah
2 ad—	19 Sep 1979	Goshute Mts., Elko Co.,
1 im		Nevada (just west of the Utah border)
1 ad	22 Sep 1979	Goshute Mts., Elko Co., Nevada (just west of the Utah border)
1 ad	24 Sep 1979	Wellsville Mts., Box Elder Co., Utah
2 ad	28 Sep 1979	Goshute Mts., Nevada
1 imm	30 Sep 1979	Wellsville Mts., Utah
1 imm	4 Oct 1979	Goshute Mts., Nevada
1 ad	5 Oct 1979	Goshute Mts., Nevada
1 ad	18 Sep 1980	Goshute Mts., Nevada
1 imm	23 Sep 1981	Goshute Mts., Nevada
3 imm	5 Oct 1981	Goshute Mts., Nevada
1 imm	21 Sep 1982	Goshute Mts., Nevada
1 imm	23 Sep 1982	Goshute Mts., Nevada

One of the above immatures was actually trapped but escaped before it could be taken from the trap and banded. On 5 May 1982 an immature was seen in the Cub Creek area of Dinosaur National Monument, Uintah County, Utah, by members of the Utah Field Ornithologists (UFO). This hawk has recently been reported about 160 km N of the Pilot Mts. — Wellsville Mt. area in Idaho (Rogers 1982a).

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*). Accounts by Behle and Perry and Hayward et al. give the impression that this race is rare within Utah. This race of the red-tail has recently been discussed by Mindell (1983) and an analysis of plumage characteristics given. Mindell outlines some of the difficulties of correctly identifying this form, especially the immature, and the widespread nature of intergradation with the race *calurus*. Despite field identification difficulties with typical *harlani*, several interesting sight records have occurred in Utah County in the past five years, and two specimens brought to Brigham Young University are worth reporting. Since 1978 an adult bird of this form, presumably the same individual, occupied a

tree perch as part of a winter territory along Interstate Highway 15 near American Fork. It usually arrived by mid-December and was gone by mid-March. It could be approached to within 50 m and gave excellent opportunity for observation, especially of the tail.

The one previous specimen for the state reported by Worthen (1973) was an immature and thus not easily separable from immatures of dark (black)-phased *calurus*. Because of this problem, its proper identity is open to question. In addition to that specimen, we now have received two adults. One (BYU 7621) is a male in dark phase and has a typical *harlani* tail coloration. It weighed 965 g and was found injured at the Lehi airport on 28 December 1981. The other, also a male (BYU 7622) from Provo, found 17 January 1983 (wt. 948 g), has a nearly immaculate breast (light phase?), dark back, and a mottled whitish tail with a rusty tip almost identical to the tail of an adult Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). The tail of this specimen is more like that of a *harlani* x *calurus* intergrade, although the breast is certainly unlike such intergrades (Mindell pers. comm.). The coloration of the tail and whiteness of the breast may be the result of intergradation with *krideri*. The sight records in Kingery (1982b), if correct, may show this race to be a regular visitor to Utah; and this may be a recent event, within the past two decades.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). The entire species account in Burleigh misrepresents the status of this hawk, not only within Idaho but in southeastern Idaho in particular. We have not attempted to review the literature for all of Idaho but will restrict our remarks to southeastern Idaho. The reports of Power et al. (1975), Power and Craig (1976), and Thurow et al. (1980) put into perspective the density of this species in but two counties of southeastern Idaho, where as many as 50–75 pairs may nest in “good” food years (perhaps half that many in “poor” years).

Porter (1951) was the first to discuss the species in Cassia County and suggested that it was probably a common summer resident. Burleigh and, earlier, Jollie (1952) were both convinced of quite the contrary, however, based on their limited experience in that region and so it is thus published. The species has been shown to be rather cyclic (Thurow

et al. 1980), and it may be that both Burleigh and Jollie (1952) visited the region in a low prey year. The available findings, however, vindicate Porter's initial impressions and show the species to be a common breeder in southeastern Idaho with as many as 20–30 pairs in an average year in a small area of Cassia County alone (Thurow et al. 1980). Mr. Jack Pierce (pers. comm.), who has been a resident of Malta, Cassia County, Idaho, for at least 50 years, remembers that two pairs nested on his property for “as long as I can remember.” Although there is a general belief that the Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) is the only large buteo to “hover” during hunting bouts, we observed the Ferruginous Hawk to use stationary hovering during foraging on numerous occasions.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). This hawk reportedly leaves northern Utah by 16 April for its arctic breeding grounds (Behle and Perry), and in southern Idaho it is said to leave by “the last of April” (Burleigh: 66). We found a freshly shot individual (BYU 7616) on 4 June 1978 about 8 km E of Malta, Idaho. The bird was an immature male in extremely worn plumage but in good physical condition (wt. 948 g). The tips of the primary feathers on the right wing were shot off. We saw another individual 5 km S of Malta on 11 May 1979 as it fed on a dead rabbit on the roadside. An individual, presumably the same, was seen in the above area again on 11 June 1979. Based on the tail coloration (see Cade 1955), this latter individual was also an immature from the previous summer's hatch. Pat Benson (pers. comm.) also had “summer” records from Gray's Lake, Idaho. Porter (1951) reported no late spring or early summer sightings of this species in southeastern Idaho, and most of his data were from this same valley.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Despite this species being listed as an uncommon breeder in that portion of southern Idaho encompassing Raft River Valley by Burleigh and by Levy (1962), we, however, found them to be common breeders there. They nested in deciduous trees (three pairs in Malta alone), in buildings (e.g., near Six Mile Canyon, two pairs), in cliffs (at least three pairs), in an abandoned silo (two pairs), or in juniper trees (many pairs, in hollows and in

Black-billed Magpie [*Pica pica*] nests). We saw kestrels enter squirrel holes that were in the cut banks of heavily eroded washes in at least two different localities. We suspected them of nesting in such holes because of their territorial behavior and because they carried food into them. Thus, casual observations, in the course of an intensive study of Ferruginous Hawks, suggested that as many as 25–30 pairs of kestrels bred in the valley.

Nests in junipers were both at the edge of the stands of forest (juniper-sagebrush ecotone), as are Ferruginous Hawks, and deeper within the forest itself. In this latter aspect they were quite unlike that reported by McArthur (1977), who had none of the 20 nesting boxes placed throughout his study area in juniper forest in Millard County, Utah, occupied. This may have been because kestrels were naturally rare there as breeders. McArthur did, however, have some utilization of boxes when placed on poles in open salt desert scrub areas. Likewise, Craig (1979), who worked about 120 km N of Raft River, had good utilization of nest boxes when placed in deciduous trees with large open areas around them or at the edge of woodlots.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Burleigh's discussion of this species pertains mainly to examples from the central or northern part of Idaho. A nest in a juniper was recently reported by Craig and Renn (1977) for the Snake River Plain somewhat north of Cassia County, Idaho. Closer to our study area there are nest records for Bannock County just to the northeast of Cassia County (Stanley A. Temple, pers. comm.). These consisted of egg clutches taken some 70 yrs ago and were apparently from nests in a riparian region. Between May and July 1977 a pair of territorial Merlins were repeatedly seen near Bridge, Cassia County. They frequented an area of abandoned buildings surrounded by cottonwood and box elder trees that contained disused Black-billed Magpie nests. Although no eggs were found, the actions of the pair suggested a breeding attempt. A territorial pair was not seen in subsequent years. On 5 August 1980 White found two young that appeared to be fledged about two weeks earlier 27 km NE of Montpelier, Bear Lake County, Idaho. The date and apparent age of the

young suggested they were not too distant from their nest. The habitat was riparian, but there were no large trees other than a few scattered conifers on the hillsides that could harbor nests. If a nest was nearby, it may have been in a magpie nest in willows (*Salix*).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). Behle and Perry record this species as hypothetical for Utah and provide one sight record. Hayward et al. list it as of uncertain status but provide four additional sight records for northern Utah, all by reliable persons. Three other observations for scattered locations should be placed on record. Howard Brinkerhoff (pers. comm. 1980), a falconer from the Uinta Basin, saw one there "about three years ago" in the early part of a particularly cold winter. Joe Terry, a local falconer, Gerald Richards, a Provo biologist, and Steve Chindgren, Salt Lake Tracy Aviary, (pers. comm.) had a wild Gyr Falcon attracted to their trained Gyr Falcon used in falconry while in Cache Valley, Utah, on 27 October 1978. Lastly, Steve Chindgren (pers. comm.) showed White a photograph of a Gyr Falcon taken on 3 February 1983 west of Kaysville, Utah. Chindgren and Larry Barker were hunting with a trained Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) when the falcon appeared. They watched it for nearly three hours, during which time it attempted to kill prey three different times. The falcon was identified as an immature female because of size and plumage characteristics. To date, most individuals have been gray color phase, although one was called white phase. White, who has had more than 20 years' experience with Gyrfalcons on their arctic breeding grounds, has no doubt as to the identification of the falcon in the photos. Although the species does occasionally escape from falconers and may be seen in the wild, it seems doubtful that enough birds could escape at such a temporal and geographic distribution to account for the Utah sightings. Based on the photograph and accumulation of records, we recommend that the species be removed from the hypothetical category and be considered an occasional winter visitant.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). Recorded as either a rare permanent resident (Behle and Perry) or of casual occurrence

(Hayward et al.), this species has now established another small breeding population, this time at Utah Lake. Hayward suspected their breeding as early as 1969 but found no definite evidence. Webb found adults and three immatures on 31 July 1980 and saw them again on 11 November 1980 at Powell Slough near the Orem sewage ponds. On 18 July 1981 two immatures and on 29 August 1981 one immature was again seen at the same locality. Several observations of adults with broods along Interstate Highway 15 in the Provo Bay area of Utah Lake in May 1983 may indicate a spread of nesting to the more southern area. They were first suspected of breeding in southern Utah (Washington County) as early as 1964 (see Hayward et al.).

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*). Until 1976 (see Behle 1981), this species was not heretofore recorded in Utah, although Utah may have been within its historical range. The species is being introduced into Gray's Lake, Caribou County, Idaho (Drewien and Bizeau 1978) where they are being fostered by the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). The migratory route normally takes cranes from this region through Colorado into New Mexico to winter.

On 13 April 1983 Webb and Shirley saw two individuals (one adult and one immature) in a flock of approximately 400 Sandhill Cranes near Stewart Lake Waterfowl Management Area, Uintah County, Utah. Both wore colored leg bands indicating that they were part of the cross-fostered flock from Gray's Lake. Single birds were also seen in the spring of 1981 and 1982 in the same area (UDWR personnel). Other records were for Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, near Vernal, Uintah County, for a summering immature also from the Gray's Lake population (Kingery 1976); Hyrum, Cache County, 25 September 1981 (Kingery 1982a), and Jensen, Uintah County, 15 February 1981 (Kingery 1981a).

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*). Although known for Utah, this species is rare enough to record recent sightings and specimens. Behle and Perry record it as a rare transient, and Hayward et al. give some six separate records for scattered portions of the state. Behle (1981) does not give any records

for northeastern Utah. A series of recent records were gathered by Billy Green and A. Ray Johnson (field notes) in Uintah County, Utah (E of Bonanza), and in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Five individuals were seen between 9 May and 20 June 1979 in Kennedy Basin on or near the Utah-Colorado border, and one was collected (BYU 7075) on 20 June 1979 about one km E of the Colorado border. The individual was a male with testes six mm long, and, although no definite evidence was found, they were suspected of being breeders rather than migrants. This species probably breeds marginally into Utah in the Uinta Basin.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). Based on one April 1968 sight record, this species was considered hypothetical in Utah (Behle and Perry). However, two additional birds in alternate plumage were seen on 5 June 1976 at The Barrens, near Amalga, Cache County, Utah (Sordahl 1981) and seven were reported near Randlett, Uintah County, 2 May 1981 (Kingery 1981b). A specimen (BYU 7615) was collected on 15 May 1982 at Pelican Lake, Uintah County, Utah. The bird was a male in alternate plumage with gonads measuring 10 x 4.5 mm, weighed 256 g, and had heavy subcutaneous fat. The bird was accompanying a flock of 60 Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*).

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*). Although this species is an occasional or rare winter visitant, there are only three extant specimens recorded by Behle and Perry and four mentioned by Hayward et al. On 25 February 1982 we received a dead bird (BYU 7609) originally found alive "a few miles" northeast of the Salt Lake City International Airport in January. It was turned over to personnel of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and then taken to Hogle Zoological Gardens where it subsequently died. When prepared, we found 19 porcupine quills in the forearm and hand of the right wing. They appeared to have been imbedded in the bird for long enough to have healed but may have been the reason that the bird was debilitated and caught. The amount of dark pigmentation and ventral spots suggests that it was an immature, although it lacked any of the first-year gray-colored feathers that are often retained from the juvenile plumage.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia uhula*). On 11 February 1976 one was brought to Brigham Young University (BYU 5895) by a local resident, Alice Chipman. It was found dead on the road "a few miles" from the Sundance Ski Resort in Provo Canyon, about 40 km NE of Provo, Utah County, Utah. The habitat there is mixed coniferous and deciduous forest. It was some time before the owl was received by us and circumstances surrounding the finding were never adequately determined. It is unknown how long it lay dead before being found. The skull was intact, although it was crushed, apparently by a vehicle. The legs, wings, back, and neck were too dry for proper specimen preparation and the sex was not determined. The plumage was badly worn but appeared to be that of an adult rather than an immature in that it lacked the more reddish brown underparts and broadly white-tipped tail (Bent 1938). A specimen taken in Alaska on 9 August shows a decidedly reddish brown cast which is described for the immature, but the amount of spotting on the upper parts agrees with presumably adult Alaskan specimens collected on 8 January and 7 February. Ridgway (1914) made no distinction between adult and immature birds based on plumage. The specimen shows traces of "hunger streaks" or "shock marks" across the rectrices, characteristic of feather growth in birds undergoing physiological stress, such as hunger, at the time the feather is growing. This might indicate a bird of the year raised in a food stress situation. The specimen appears to be the first record in western U.S. south of the Brookings, South Dakota (Serr 1978), Nampa, Idaho (Rogers 1974), and Pocatello, Idaho (Rogers 1978b) regions. We were unable to locate any winter records for Wyoming.

Although this owl appears as an "invasion" species within different areas of its normal winter range, a perusal of *American Birds* for 1975-76 did not show any unusual southward movement of this species that year. Further, most of the winter records are of birds in more open deciduous woods or prairie habitat rather than conifer habitat.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). There are four separate observations of this species in the literature, all based on sight records, and the species is considered

accidental in Utah (Hayward et al.). The circumstances surrounding the following additional observation seems noteworthy. On 29 May 1982 there was a large high pressure area over a considerable portion of Utah and Nevada. At Elberta, Utah County, Utah, winds from the south at 40-50 km/h lasted most of the day, but by evening they shifted within 10 min to the north and the temperature dropped 10-15 C within the same time period. These winds lasted throughout the night. The following morning, 30 May, was calm, clear, and unseasonably cool. Martin Dobson and Judy Wray, two zoology graduate students working on a bird project, found this flycatcher foraging along the fence row adjacent to Utah Route 68, eight km N of Elberta. They approached it to within 10 m in a vehicle and watched it forage for about 45 min as it moved south to north. They returned to camp to get cameras; but when they, along with several other people, returned an hour later to the location of the bird, it could not be found. Then, one week later, on 6 June, A. Ray Johnson (pers. comm.) was traveling along the same highway about 17 km N of the previous observation and saw a scissor-tail, perhaps the same individual, foraging along the fence row. He approached to within 25 m and watched it for about one min. He judged the bird to be an adult.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*). Behle (1958) did not find this species in the Raft River Mountains, extreme northwestern Box Elder County, Utah, during his extensive studies there. He did, however, indicate that Clarence Cottam found them there and reported them to him. In light of Behle's findings, one observation should be placed on record. Rosey Rosa saw one on 30 November 1950 at Standrod, a ranch area on the north slope of the Raft River Mountains just a few miles south of the Idaho border, and Porter saw one there from December 1950 through 28 January 1951. Behle and Perry indicate that the northern race *annectens* moves into northern Utah in winter. This observation may represent an individual of that race.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). The breeding distribution of this species for Utah has been most recently discussed by Richards and White (1963). Nowhere in Utah

are breeding crows as common as they are in adjacent regions, as for example along the Humbolt River Valley, northern Nevada. Some nesting records come from extreme southwestern Utah, while the rest are from central and eastern Utah. Their status is poorly known for the northwestern part of Utah (Box Elder County) and adjacent Idaho. Burleigh does not describe their nesting distribution for that region of Idaho. Levy (1950) called the species a common summer resident in the south central Idaho region he covered, although most of that region was well northward into southern Idaho. Over a straight line 56 km distance from 14 km N of Malta to Clear Creek, Box Elder County, Utah, we found five nesting pairs. The spacing of pairs was rather regular, and they occurred in the central part of the Raft River Valley. Although one nest was in a juniper tree in a cultivated riparian situation, the others were in deciduous trees in partially cultivated or manipulated areas. This distribution contrasted markedly with the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), which nested almost exclusively in juniper trees at the edges of the valley (the juniper-sagebrush ecotone), or on tall electric power transmission pylons that ran through the center of the valley. Three were on cliffs. In that same distance we found 15 raven nests.

Four fresh crow eggs were found on 28 April, and at two nests, young 5–7 days old and 10–12 days old were found on 29 May. By contrast, ravens were starting to fledge by 1 June. Thus, the spatial placements of nests, nesting chronology, and density of ravens was notably different from crows, with only limited overlap in these variables. In addition to the Clear Creek, Utah, nest a second nest was found along Grouse Creek, 20 km N of the town of Grouse Creek (ca. 10 km SW of Lynn). Both nests were in willows in a riparian situation. These are the only two nests thus far reported for that region (western Box Elder County) of Utah. Since Behle (1958) worked in the Lynn and Clear Creek areas and did not find them breeding, nor did he have reports from early investigations, and since Porter also failed to see them in the Raft River area during his studies in the early 1950s, they may be recently established there.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila melanura*). This species is listed as hypothetical for Utah based on a single December 1969 record in St. George, Washington County (Behle and Perry). There are, however, numerous Nevada records adjacent to Washington County. On 3 April 1982 members of a Brigham Young University ornithology field trip to Beaver Dam Wash, Washington County, watched a pair as they foraged about three to four km N of Lytle's Ranch. They pursued the pair for about 1¼ hours and had many close observations. Members of the group, David Ng, Tod DeLong, Ed Robey, and David Fischer, have had experience with gnatcatchers in a variety of habitats and areas. The black crown was particularly evident. Some of the observers had earlier on the trip seen the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*). Then, on 2 June 1982, A. Ray Johnson and Dan Landeen watched a pair for 8 to 10 min in the same region of the Beaver Dam Wash as on the earlier date. It is doubtful that both parties found the same pair, and it seems likely that a small breeding population exists along Beaver Dam Wash. Members of the Weber State University ornithology class saw a pair in Beaver Dam Wash about 1.6 km E of Terry Ranch in Joshua tree habitat on 14 May 1983 (via David Fischer, pers. comm.). Because of the variability in the extent of black on the head, examples of this species should be examined in the hand to verify these observations.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). This species was not recorded as breeding in Idaho by Burleigh and apparently only straggles into that state. Stephens and Reynolds (1983) list it as an occasional erratic visitor to southwestern Idaho. Since it had not been recorded breeding in southern Idaho and its status in northern Utah is not clearly defined and breeding records are rare there (Hayward et al.), the following observations are of value. Steve Hoffman (pers. comm.) saw adults feeding young in late April 1974, 16 km N of the Utah-Idaho border on the W side of the Sublette Hills, Oneida County, Idaho. By 1977, they were reported another 160 km northward at Atomic City, Bingham County, Idaho (Rogers 1978a).

On 28 June 1947 Porter saw five together at Locomotive Springs, Box Elder County.

On 16 June 1953 Porter (Porter, Bushman, and Behle unpubl. ms.) found a nest with three young at Dugway Proving Grounds, Tooele County, Utah (see photograph, page 109 in Hayward et al.). The habitat was desert scrub with an occasional juniper tree. The nest was about 0.7 m above the ground in a 2 m fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*). The Dugway area was used again in 1966. The species was attempting to breed north of Tooele as early as 1934 (Woodbury et al. ms.). Shirley observed two singing males on territories 5 km SE of Gold Hill, Tooele County, Utah on 25 May 1982.

Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*). Mainly a species of the southern half of Utah, there are scattered sight records in north central and northwestern Utah (Behle and Perry). A. Ray Johnson and Billy Green (field notes) took photographs of a pair and recently fledged young in the northeastern portion of the state at Coyote Wash, 17 km NE Bonanza, Uintah County, Utah (see Kingery 1980c). They were seen through the period 31 May – 4 June 1980. This may represent the northern extreme of the breeding range. The species was reported again in 1981 from Randlett, Uintah County, Utah (Kingery 1981c).

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Called hypothetical by Behle and Perry and Hayward et al. because of the lack of appropriate documentation (specimen or photograph), the species is now represented by a specimen found by Lloyd Gunther, formerly of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah on 20 September 1977 (BYU 5860). The specimen weighed 15 g and is thought to be an adult female. When prepared it was freeze dried, so sex and skull ossification condition could not be examined.

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*). This species was not listed by Behle and Perry, and only the date and location of collection was mentioned by Hayward et al. The specimen (BYU 5390) is an adult male in alternate plumage, based on color and markings, and was well preserved as a mummy except for the loss of the right eye and portions of the right side of the face. This bird was found dead at Callao, Tooele County, Utah, along with numerous other dead and dried birds at the base of a cottonwood tree. They

perished in an unseasonable cold and snowy spell between 30 April and 23 May 1975 (see Whitmore et al. 1977 for a discussion of mortality during this period). Many of the specimens were in a similar state of preservation due to the extremely arid conditions of Callao. The date of 31 May 1975 given by Hayward et al. was the date the bird was found and probably represents at least a week after the species actually arrived in Callao, perhaps as much as three weeks after arrival.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). This species had not been heretofore recorded for Utah. An adult male was seen at the feeder of Merlin Killpack in Ogden, Utah, on 10 March 1983. The bird (BYU 7620) was trapped at the feeder for observation and to photograph, but died before it could be released. It weighed 44.5 g and was in good condition. There is no indication that the cardinal was an escapee from captivity.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Burleigh does not list this species for Idaho, and Stephens and Reynolds (1983) list it as accidental for southwestern Idaho. On 18 May 1979 at the mouth of Six Mile Canyon, Raft River Valley, Idaho, we found a male in alternate plumage accompanied by a chestnut-colored female, which we took to be also of this species rather than the more tan-colored female of the Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). The male was seen to interact on two occasions with a male Lazuli Bunting. Both times the Lazuli was seen chasing the Indigo Bunting. The pair was seen briefly as they flew across the road on 19 May but not thereafter.

Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*). Behle and Perry indicated that this species occurs normally in Utah between March and the end of November and leaves the state in mid-winter, although it has also been known to occur in extreme southwestern Utah during winter (Hayward et al.) This species, in fact, occurs over a much wider portion of western Utah throughout the entire year, though more scarce and spotty in winter, and should be considered a permanent resident. Porter et al. (unpublished ms) commonly found loose flocks of 3 to 5 and an occasional single species flock of up to 50 individuals from December through March in Dugway Valley,

Tooele County, in 1952–1954. They occupied salt scrub habitat where greasewood (*Sarcobatus*) was the principal plant.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). This species occurs near the western edge of its breeding range in western Utah and is rare there (see Porter and Egoscue 1954), with a poorly documented breeding distribution. Behle and Perry list it as an uncommon transient for most of Utah outside of the Uinta Basin, where it is a regular breeder. Hayward et al. list four other scattered or isolated presumed Utah breeding records outside the Uinta Basin based on time of collection or reported egg clutches. Burleigh stated that it reaches the extreme western portion of its breeding range in southern Idaho, that it is a local and uncommon summer resident, and he lists a few summer records of birds in breeding condition. One mentioned by Levy (1962) from the Caribou Basin, some 160 km NE of Raft River, had testes in breeding condition on 28 May. Stephens and Reynolds (1983) list it as an accidental for southwestern Idaho (they consider 114°W Long, about 32 km W of our study area, as the eastern limits of the region covered). On 24 May 1979 we saw a male in Raft River Valley, and on 19 June 1979 found a pair, the male still courting, near the mouth of Six Mile Canyon, Raft River Valley, Cassia County, Idaho. Then, on 12 July 1979 we found three other pairs in the Black Pine Valley (the valley extends from Box Elder County, Utah, into Oneida County, Idaho, and about 19 km SE of the Six Mile Canyon). One male with food in its bill as though feeding young was about 12 km W of Snowville, Utah; directly N about 5 km was another foraging pair, and about 1½ km farther N into Idaho was a third male also gathering food. The habitat is a mixed greasewood-sagebrush-grass community.

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The temporal stay of this species in Utah is given by Behle and Perry as late October to the end of April. It reportedly arrives later than most wintering finches and departs later than many. Its spring departure may in fact be correlated with weather. In 1983 unseasonably cold weather with intermittent snow prevailed throughout the spring with a heavy snow fall during the period of 10–13 May

and again on 16 May. On 14 May a bright-pink-billed adult male in alternate plumage was seen in Mapleton, Utah County, Utah, by Porter. It remained until 18 May. Two other individuals also occurred in Pleasant Grove during the same period, arriving on 8 May and departing on 20 May (UDWR personnel). The late date suggests that the species may stay two to three weeks longer than previously recorded, but these later departures may be dictated by weather conditions near normal departure time.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Because recent data on the Bobolink are scanty and nesting information poor (Hayward et al.), observations from the past few years are of interest. Shirley counted six territorial males on 12 June 1982 in a grassy pasture W of Interstate Highway 15 near Springville, Utah County, Utah. This small nesting population has been observed at the same location for several years. It is unknown whether successful nesting takes place. Each year the grass hay is cut part way through the nesting season, which may destroy the nests. Additional sightings by Webb in 1981 and 1982 of a breeding pair the first week in June near Midway, Heber Valley, may indicate nesting in that area.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*). This species is not mentioned by either Behle and Perry or Hayward et al. for Utah. The range, habits, and comparison with a close species, the Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) has recently been reviewed by Pruitt (1975), and the former is shown to range to about central Arizona and New Mexico. The first Utah record was of a male in worn plumage seen on 1 July 1977 at Mapleton, Utah, by Porter (unpublished ms). The most distinctive feature about the bird, other than the tail, was the disproportionately small head and neck. Then, on 6 June 1978, Webb saw this species along the Virgin River S of St. George, Washington County, Utah. In separate sightings during the week of 13–17 May 1980, as many as 8 were observed near the sewage ponds at Washington, not far from St. George, by Webb and Steve Hedges. Hedges supplied a photograph verifying a state record (Kingery 1980b). On 9 October 1980 Webb then observed a group of 10 (males, females, and

immatures) S of Washington. During May 1982 breeding pairs were again seen at the Washington sewage ponds and at Ivin's Reservoir, 12 km W of St. George. Territorial males were observed during the spring of 1983 at Ivin's Reservoir, and on 7 May 3 males and 2 females were seen flying up Magotsu Creek 1.6 km W of Veyo, Utah. During the 1982 Christmas bird count, 5 were seen on the east shore of Utah Lake not far from Provo by Webb. They are also reported to have reached Bicknell, Wayne County, Utah, by 18 April 1981 (Kingery 1981b).

The species has been expanding its range beyond that shown by Pruitt (1975) into several western states. It was recorded to breed for the first time in California's lower Colorado River Valley in 1969 after having been seen first in 1964 (Small 1974). For Colorado the first breeding occurred in Monte Vista in 1973 (Stepney 1975), when eight nests were found, and in Nevada it occurred in Ruby Valley and Sunnyside in 1981 (Kingery 1981b).

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). This species is listed as accidental by Hayward et al. and as a rare transient by Behle and Perry, based on scattered records throughout the year. They were first found breeding in 1977 at Vernal (Behle 1981). Then on 22-23 May 1981 three nests were found on the grounds of the Dinosaur Museum of Natural History, Vernal, Uintah County, Utah, by Steve Hedges. Again on 15 May 1983, four nesting pairs were observed (see Kingery 1981b). It may also be breeding in the area of Utah Lake based on several April 1983 records and an adult male found dead on 22 April 1983 in Springville (BYU 7623) that had testes in a breeding condition (12 x 8 mm). The bird weighed 125 g.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*). Although there are scattered records for this species throughout Utah, neither Behle and Perry nor Hayward et al. mention the 1936 observations of Twomey (1942) for Powder Springs, Uintah County, Utah, nor the adjacent Rio Blanco County, Colorado, records. Twomey's map shows Powder Springs to be in Colorado; his description of the location, page 359, places it in Utah. The 7.5 min USGS Cliff Ridge quadrangle for Utah

matches Twomey's description with a Powder Springs Wash, but a Powder Springs location does not appear on the appropriate (Mellen Hill) 7.5 min quadrangle for Colorado to match Twomey's map. Behle (1981) subsequently rightly mentions the Powder Springs location in Utah. In 1979 A. Ray Johnson and Billy Green (field notes and pers. comm.) found this species in June and July 10-12 km from Twomey's Colorado observation, and in August (11-14) four to five individuals were seen directly west of the Colorado sightings some 12-16 km into Uintah County, Utah (see Kingery 1980c). It appears that a limited but consistent population occurs in that region that lies between Ranglely, Colorado, and Ouray, Utah, and probably has been there at least in the 40-year period since Twomey. It is interesting to note that the *Colorado Field Ornithologists* (Reddall 1976) opted to drop it from the state list because of what they considered unconvincing details prior to 1974, and then added it in 1975 based on an early May individual from Jefferson County. Although Burleigh does not list them for Idaho, Steve Hoffman (pers. comm.) observed several in the Sublette Hills, approximately 8 km S of Holbrook, Oneida County, Idaho, just to the east of the Raft River Valley during the breeding season of 1974-75. He believed them to be nesting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In addition to the graduate students mentioned in the text, we also thank M. Ralph Browning, U.S. National Museum, for comments on the manuscript, and Tom L. Thurrow, Dan Johnson, Richard Howard, William Mader, and T. Craig White for help in the field. Steve Hoffman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, supplied us with several pertinent records. A. Ray Johnson and Billy Green were funded on a contract from Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company through H. D. Smith.

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